

# These Days, Mailmen Don't Have to be Male Man



So Your  
Dentist's  
Name is Janet  
and  
Your  
Hairdresser's  
Name is Chad—

## **Picture this:**

- ***A mother of three building an addition on your house.***
- ***A father teaching toddlers at the local day care center.***
- ***A 55-year old grandmother repairing your car.***
- ***A young man providing nursing care at your doctor's office.***

Do you have difficulty imagining the men and women in these jobs? Did the images conflict with your traditional view of what people do for work?

The people described above are in *nontraditional* jobs. They have chosen occupations that require working in a field that has been traditionally dominated by 75 percent or more of the other sex. The jobs usually require postsecondary training. They break the old stereotypes of “men’s work” and “women’s work.”

It would not be surprising if the titles police officer, aircraft mechanic, or insurance agent caused you to immediately picture a man on the job. Terms such as nurse, childcare worker, or dental hygienist might bring an image of a working woman. Because we do not often see nontraditional workers, we sometimes assume that such people do not exist, or, if they do, they are exceptions. But men and women are beginning to select their occupations based on their interests and skills, and not based on traditional expectations. They are discovering that nontraditional occupations can be fulfilling, challenging, and have good pay. Most important, they are using personal abilities that are not limited by sex role stereotyping.

Because nontraditional occupations are still fairly unusual, most students do not even consider nontraditional program options when it comes time to select an occupational field. Instead of sticking to a traditional role, investigate occupations that fit your interests and abilities. Be aware of the options open to you, and don't limit your personal goals. ♦

## ***Nontraditional Occupations for Women***

air traffic controller  
auto mechanic  
butcher  
carpenter  
dentist  
drafter  
electrician  
engineer  
machinist  
painter  
plumber  
police officer  
security guard

## ***Nontraditional Occupations for Men***

administrative assistant  
bank teller  
cosmetologist  
dental hygienist  
elementary school teacher  
licensed practical nurse  
medical secretary  
nutritionist  
preschool teacher  
receptionist  
registered nurse  
sales clerk  
travel agent

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# Four Fibs About Females    More Myths About Males

Women are not strong enough to do certain jobs.

Many nontraditional jobs are not as physically demanding as housework; some are more so. Mechanization has

decreased the level of physical demand in many jobs, such as heavy equipment operator. Women often have

excellent lower-body strength, and with proper weight training they can improve upper-body strength to